

## REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ayer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,624). Claims 2-7 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayer et al in further view of Hsu et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,701).

Ayer describes a method for generating a composite video sequence from at least two video sequences. Ayer states: "Required also is temporal consistency for the extraction of background/foreground to be stable over time... Temporal alignment involves the selection of corresponding frames in the sequences, according to a chosen criterion" (Column 4, lines 5-23). Thus, Ayer requires that images in the sequences be temporally aligned, by selection of corresponding frames in the sequences, prior to spatial alignment thereof.

In contrast, the present invention does not require that images in the sequences be coincident in time. The present application states: "Temporal misalignment can result from the fact that the two input sequences can be at different frame rates or may have a time shift (offset) between them. The temporal shift may be at sub-frame units..." (Paragraph 53 of the published application). Paragraph 61 of the published application states: "Further more, sequence-to-sequence alignment is more powerful than using all the spatial constraints from all pairs of images to solve for spatial transformation as: (i) it recovers also the temporal misalignment (at sub-frame accuracy)".

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 8 to more clearly recite this feature of the present invention. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 8 can be found in paragraph 61 of the published application.

Ayer does not show or suggest "receiving a plurality of sequences of images, each sequence containing a multiplicity of images, each of said plurality of sequences defining a space-time volume, without requiring that images in said plurality of sequences be coincident in time" as cited in amended claims 1 and 8.

In order to more clearly define the present invention Applicant has added new claims 14 and 15 which recite "said at least one point in a space-time volume comprises at least one

of a point in a sub-frame unit and a point in a sub-pixel unit”, and new claims 16 – 19 which recite “said temporal variations result from at least one of said sequences being at different frame rates, said sequences having a time shift therebetween and said sequences having a shift at sub-frame units”. Support for the new claims can be found in paragraphs 53, 61 and 122 of the published application *inter-alia*.

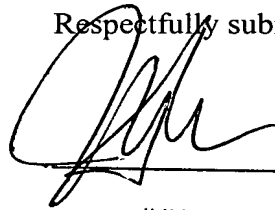
Hsu et al describes a method and apparatus for determining the topology of a sequence of images and globally aligning the images with respect to each image’s neighboring images. Hsu et al does not describe a global alignment of sequences of images as recited in claims 2-7 and 9-13.

With reference to the above discussion, independent claims 1 and 8 are deemed patentable over the prior art of record and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Each of claims 2-7 and 9-19 depend directly or ultimately from one of the abovementioned independent claims and recite additional patentable subject matter and therefore are deemed patentable.

Applicant has carefully studied the remaining prior art of record herein and concludes that the invention as described and claimed in the present application is neither shown in nor suggested by the cited art.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Cohen', is written over a horizontal line.

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